



ROSCOMMON SCHOOL

WHAKAPONO KI A KOE – BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Tuesday 9th June 2020
Term 2, Week 8

WE'VE REACHED ALERT LEVEL 1!

Kia ora Roscommon Whanau,

Yay!

Yay! Yipee! and Well done to everyone in our school community and our nation for the great efforts put in to managing the risk of Covid 19 in Aotearoa. We have now moved to Alert Level 1. It's a great feeling to know that at least for now, we are far safer than we have been, and much safer than many countries around the world.

SO, WHAT DOES ALERT LEVEL 1 MEAN FOR US?



Well it means that life can almost return to normal:

- No more physical distancing requirements (although where possible or practicable it's encouraged that you do this around people you don't know);
- There are no specific health requirements;
- There are no restrictions on personal movement, so all students and staff are safe to come to school, and all students must attend school;
- We don't need to keep a track and trace register, although visitors to the school will still be asked to sign in;
- There are no restrictions on numbers at gatherings or on physical activities.

There are key public health measures for everyone in New Zealand to follow. For schools and early learning services this means:

- If people are sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if they have cold or flu symptoms).



- Continue to regularly wash and dry hands, sneeze and cough into elbows.
- Soap, water and the ability to dry hands should be provided in bathrooms.



- Regularly disinfect shared surfaces.
- Support contact tracing efforts by using the displayed QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App.
- Strict self-isolation of those who display relevant symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, or have been overseas in the last 14 days – Ministry of Health information for self-isolation.

At all levels, upon advice from the local medical officer of health, any educational facilities connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days.

Ministry of Education, June 2020

ADAPTED SOCIAL STORY

Attached you'll find an adapted social story that teachers will go over with our students. We ask that you please go over this with your child so they too are familiar with the expectations at Alert Level 1.



We look forward to catching up with you all in the next little while. We have missed being able to freely engage with our families/ whanau and we say welcome back to school life as we usually know it (give or take a few minor adjustments, or 'our new normal').

Thank
You

Once again, thank you so much everyone for the support you have given our school, our students and staff, during these strange and uncertain times.

You have abided by the rules we had to put in place, and this has made life for everyone so much easier.

While moving into Alert Level 1 signals to us that it is far safer for us to move about and live our everyday lives, we are still part of a global pandemic. To be in an Alert Level, means we still have to stay ALERT!



We still have to listen for any updates from our health authorities, and follow their advice, so that we can continue to be safe and sensible. We have to be prepared to go into another Alert Level if we need to (and we've proved now that we can cope at Alert Levels 2, 3 and 4- so good for us!).

Finally, we just have to get on and keep living, learning, and loving one another as we have done so far. All of us have been impacted by this Covid 19 situation in some way. The good thing is that because we've been through something like this together, we are reminded that we are not alone. We are not alone in how we are feeling- you might be feeling relief, or anxiety, or excitement, or uncertainty.

No matter where you are at with processing this, we encourage you that it's okay to do this in your own way. As we've been reminded by our Prime Minister through all of this, "Be kind". So, be kind to yourself, and keep being kind to each other.

BE
Kind

Today and this week, let's celebrate and enjoy being in this new Alert Level 1, and congratulate ourselves for a job well done! Happy hi-fives and hugs to you all.

Sonia Johnston
Principal

NB- Remember, if you or your child need to talk to someone, we also have support here at school, such as our school social worker (SWIS)- Kuenita, or our chaplain Mama Sola, or any one of our school leaders. You can make contact through our school office, ie. admin@roscommon.school.nz or 09 266 5731.

ADAPTED SOCIAL STORY

What did you do when you found out that we are going to Alert Level 1? Did you do a little dance like the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern? Like lots of people in New Zealand, she is celebrating because we can now do way more things that we couldn't do because of Covid 19. Because there are no more cases, we can go back to doing some of those things, but just keep being safe and sensible as well.

At school this means...

Coming into school- Parents, Visitors, Students (as independent learners)

We don't need a school bubble anymore. Visitors and parents are welcome to come back into the school. Our teachers did notice that we were more independent when we came into school by ourselves. Unless I'm still little, like in Year 1, or if you need to talk to my teacher, then it would be good for me to keep up that independence of coming in and getting myself ready for the day.

Only visitors signing in

There's no more track and tracing. This means you don't need to sign in if you do drop me off or pick me up from school. Only visitors will still need to sign in at the office.

No physical distancing

We don't need to physically distance from other people. This also means when we see or greet others, we can now go back to doing handshakes, hongi, hi fives, or hugs (if they are people we know really well).

We will remember to respect other peoples' personal space. Not everyone will want to greet others in these ways. Some people might take some time to get used to doing these things again, and that's okay. We will check with others if they are okay with shaking hands, doing hongi, hi fives, or hugs, before we use these to greet others.

Staying home if you are sick

If we are unwell, we will stay home and get medical advice. If we have these symptoms- cough, runny nose, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, then we should get some advice. Our parents can call the Healthline number (0800 611 116) or phone our doctor.

If we are unwell at school, our teachers will give us a mask to wear so we don't breathe any germs on others. We will have a quiet place to wait in our class/ team while our families are contacted from the office. Our parents will talk with the school and it will be decided if we should come home.

Bring our own water bottle

We will keep bringing our own water bottle to school every day. Very soon the school drinking fountains will be changed over to taps to fill our bottles. Until then, we will fill our bottles at home, and in the classroom during the school day.

Keep up good hygiene

We will keep up our good hygiene practices. This means regularly washing and drying, or sanitising our hands. We'll also try not to touch our faces. Our work surfaces like our tables or desks will be disinfected regularly too.

Eat safely

We will continue to eat our morning tea and lunch in our classrooms. Any food items like fruit or milk will be handed out to us. Our teachers will encourage us not to share food or drinks.

If we forget our lunches, or have no lunch, our teachers will sort a requiring lunch for us. Our parents are asked to avoid dropping lunches in during the school day.

Meet altogether again

We can finally go back to having our school assemblies in the hall, and having other big gatherings we'd usually have in our school. We look forward to seeing your parents and whanau joining us at these events.

Keep up good ventilation (airflow)

Our teachers will keep opening some of our windows to keep a good amount of fresh air flowing through our rooms. We can still wear extra clothing in addition to our school uniforms to keep us warm now that it is winter.

Keep our gate times, and coming to school on time

The gate opening and closing times will stay the same. The gates will open at 8.00am and close at 9.15am. They will then reopen at the end of the day at 2.45pm and close at 3.15pm. Most kids have been coming to school on time during Alert Level 2- so let's just keep doing that.